

# Corporate Worship

By Red Miller

*1 Come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.*

*2 Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him.*

*3 For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods. Psalms 95:1-3*

**One of the most striking things about corporate worship in the New Testament is the focus on building up the whole body. Paul writes, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another with all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Col. 3:16).**

**We teach and admonish one another as we sing to the Lord. As we praise God, we build each other up. Paul goes so far as to say that everything in the gathered assembly should be done with a view to building up the body in Christ (1 Cor. 14:26).**

**From the Life Application Study Bible we read: When God’s people gather, the church leaders are also required to ensure that what the Bible commands be done in worship actually be done. There are certain elements that Scripture prescribes for gathered corporate worship services as the church. Many theologians refer to these as the elements of corporate worship, and they include the following:**

- 1. Preaching (2 Timothy 4:2)*
- 2. Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Table (Matthew 28:19;*
- 3. Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1)*
- 4. Reading Scripture (1 Timothy 4:13)*
- 5. Financial giving (2 Corinthians 8–9)*
- 6. Singing and music (Colossians 3:16) End of quote.*

**In the early church, songs, shouts, gratitude, and praise erupted from those gathered to worship the Lord. While there are certainly many examples of stillness and silence in God’s presence taught and illustrated in Scripture, there are equally as many examples of raucous worship. Both peaceful silence and enthusiastic praise are appropriate expressions of worship to our great God. Participation in a church is essential to the spiritual health of individual Christians.**

*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philip 1:4*